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the Rebels in London. Based upon careful studies of the original sources, this is the best and most detailed account of the crucial part of the revolt that has as yet appeared. But even here the use of the sources is not exhaustive. Certain inaccuracies occur. There is convincing proof in the sources to show that the Conference at Mile End took place at the seventh canonical hour, 1 p. m., not at 7 a. m. (AMERICAN HISTORICAL REVIEW, VII. 282). In the narrative of the meeting of the king and the rebels it is a pity that the author failed to use the interesting version of the Monk of Evesham, whose usually independent account of the revolt he seems to have altogether overlooked, and that of the *Anonymous French Chronicle*. The latter, in addition to the demands of the insurgents otherwise transmitted, enumerates another which appears to be a demand for the annulment of the Statute of Laborers: "Che nul ne deveroit servire ascune home, mes a sa volunte de mesme et par coueernant taille." In like manner the author has failed in his account of the conference at Smithfield, which resulted in the death of Tyler, to make use of a very important source, the memorial of the insurrection issued by the city council to record the mayor's important part in that event (see Riley, *Memorials of London*, 450-453). We cite these instances because the meetings at Mile End and Smithfield were the two crises upon which the fate of the revolt depended.

Professor Oman's attitude toward the insurrection and its leaders, although not unfair, is rather hostile than sympathetic. On one occasion he terms Tyler a ruffian, and he places more weight upon the hostile Walsingham's statement of the rebel leader's designs than it merits (p. 72). It is hardly just to speak of the insurgents who remained in London after the concessions at Mile End as "demagogues, criminals and fanatics" (p. 69). Now that we know the nature of the demands at Smithfield, it seems more just to say that they were the more radical of the insurgents, to whom the Mile End concessions were not sufficient, and, in particular, the advocates of a reformation of the Church in accordance with the doctrines of John Ball.

Chapters v.-ix. are devoted to the repression of the revolt in London and the various shires. The account of the local revolts contains little additional to the researches of Réville and Powell. The last chapter treats of the Results of the Insurrection. There are six valuable appendixes.

The Political History of England. In twelve volumes. Edited by WILLIAM HUNT and REGINALD L. POOLE. Volume V. *The History of England from the Accession of Henry VII. to the Death of Henry VIII., 1485-1547.* By H. A. L. FISHER, M.A., Fellow and Tutor of New College, Oxford. (London and New York: Longmans, Green and Company. 1906. Pp. xx, 518.)

THE appearance of this book marks the entrance of its author upon a comparatively new field; Mr. Fisher has been hitherto known chiefly

by his work on *The Medieval Empire* and his *Studies in Napoleonic Statesmanship*. A brilliant introduction to a translation of the memoirs of the Pomeranian notary, Bartholomew Sastrow, and a number of Oxford lectures on Reformation topics have already proved, however, that he has long been familiar with the sixteenth century in England and on the Continent, and the present volume at once places him high in the ranks of recognized authorities on early Tudor history.

First and foremost among the great and obvious merits of this book should be mentioned the saneness of its judgments and fairness of its verdicts. Naturally, one of the first points on which the reader seeks information is the writer's position on the question of the divorce of Katharine of Aragon and the origin of the English Reformation. Mr. Fisher's attitude, "more cautious than Froude's", closely resembles that of Professor Pollard; and is stated even more convincingly, though perhaps somewhat less positively. He holds that the lack of a male heir and the prospect of a contested succession were the original, and the attractions of Anne Boleyn the contributory, cause of the breach with Rome. Dr. Gairdner presents the other side of the case in the *English Historical Review* for April, 1907, but we think that there can be little doubt that Mr. Fisher's view will ultimately prevail. Nothing could be better than the last paragraph of the chapter on the Breach with Rome (p. 329) in which the author warns us against the man who would explain the English Reformation solely "on the hypothesis of lust and land-hunger masquerading in the guise of religion". Note-worthy, too, is the estimate of Wolsey, which deals the death-blow to the extravagant praises of Creighton and Brewer, and yet does not err on the other side. Doubtless some of the statements in chapter ix. (on the Balance of Power, 1521-1525) will evoke criticism and perhaps contradiction; but those who quarrel with Mr. Fisher will always find that he has a strong array of evidence to support his view of the case. And we hasten to add that the strength of the author's position is materially increased by the moderate, charitable and courteous language in which he expresses himself on controverted points. He seems to have avoided entirely the polemical style and over-insistence on trivial details which mar so many of our historical discussions to-day.

Next we would mention the author's thorough knowledge of the literature of the period with which he deals—a knowledge the more remarkable as he has not dealt with Tudor history extensively before. One receives an impression of wide and thoughtful reading of sources and secondary authorities in perusing the book; that impression is more than confirmed on examination of the admirable critical bibliography. Doubtless some publications have escaped Mr. Fisher's notice, and he does not always indicate the most recent authorities on every phase of his story; his omission of all mention of Professor Gay's remarks on Leadam's "Domesday of Inclosures" in the *Transactions of the Royal Historical Society* for 1900, and of his article on "Inclosures in Eng-

land in the Sixteenth Century" in the *Quarterly Journal of Economics* for 1903 is a case in point. But lapses such as this are more than counterbalanced by the thoroughness of the author's mastery of the great sources and histories of the period, like the State Papers, Hall, Bacon and Froude. He has really lived in them, and made them a part of himself and his work.

Lastly we would call attention to the style; it is more than merely attractive; at times it is really inspiring. It is delightful, after perusal of the first 109 pages (the portion allotted to Henry VII.) to discover that one has absorbed the pith of the works of Professors Busch and Schanz without the enormous expenditure of time and patience which actual contact with those learned tomes involves; but that is by no means all. Mr. Fisher is more than an accurate and attractive summarizer. The real merits of his style are evident in those passages where he has a chance to show his own personality. He has a vivid imagination, he feels deeply the grandeur and pathos, the tragedy and comedy of the story he has to tell, and he has a rare gift of putting that feeling into words. And yet his love of a brilliant sentence or a clever phrase never runs away with the soundness of his judgment.

One feels throughout that the limits of the work imposed by the editor of the series must have weighed heavily upon the author. There are obviously a number of things which he could have told and would have enjoyed telling had he been able to give himself scope. A little more time spent in revision would probably have saved him some minor slips. Sir Edward Woodville, for instance, who was slain at St. Aubin du Cormier, was not "Lord Scales" (p. 28), despite the statements of contemporaries like Bernaldez and Peter Martyr. The title of Lord Scales belonged to his elder brother Anthony in right of his wife Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of Thomas, seventh Baron Scales; but fell into abeyance in 1483 after Anthony's execution (*cf.* Cokayne's *Complete Peerage*, vol. VII., pp. 73-74). It is scarcely accurate to speak of the Star Chamber as "created" (p. 20) by the Act of 1487; it was rather given legal form thereby; the court and the name had been known since Edward III. The enthusiastic letter in which Mountjoy in 1509 describes to Erasmus the virtues of Henry VIII. is curiously misquoted in one particular: the effect of the substitution of the word "cheers" for "tears" (p. 158) is rather startling. Trifles like these however may easily be corrected in a second edition, and should weigh as nothing in comparison with the solid excellencies of this able and interesting book. It will certainly occupy an honorable position in the splendid series to which it belongs. In the opinion of the present reviewer there is no account of either of the first two Tudor reigns, of similar bulk, that can compare with it: it is certainly typical of the best that Oxford scholarship can produce; it has all the merits and almost none of the defects which are commonly associated with Oxford historiography: it should do much to enhance the reputa-

tion of a system in which Mr. Fisher, once a product, is now a most important producer. Finally, the book comes as a welcome evidence that concentration upon a single comparatively limited period is not necessarily essential to the best historical work, and that it is at least possible, despite many examples to the contrary, for a man to make more than one or even two fields of history sufficiently his own to be able to write with authority upon them all.

ROGER BIGELOW MERRIMAN.

A History of the Inquisition of Spain. Volume IV. By HENRY CHARLES LEA, LL.D. (New York and London: The Macmillan Company. 1907. Pp. xii, 619.)

History of Sacerdotal Celibacy in the Christian Church. In two volumes. [Third edition, revised.] By HENRY CHARLES LEA, LL.D. (New York: The Macmillan Company. 1907. Pp. xvi, 481; x, 412.)

THE last of the four volumes of Mr. Lea's *Inquisition of Spain* appeared in October. It continues his account of the Inquisition's varied spheres of action. What he has to tell of its dealings with Mysticism is already known in large part from his pages on that subject in his *Chapters from the Religious History of Spain*; but it is here revised in the light of further study, and is enriched by considerable excursions into the story of the Church's treatment of Mysticism in Italy and in France. There follows a long chapter on the unsavory subject of the Inquisition's relations with solicitation, another on its dealings with "propositions", or heretical utterances, and one on its treatment of sorcery and occult arts, showing clearly how, by taking seriously such superstitions and laying stress on their diabolic character and supernatural efficacy, the tribunal popularized and perpetuated them.

Strikingly in contrast with this Mr. Lea finds the Inquisition's treatment of witchcraft—for witchcraft, he reminds us, though the culmination of sorcery, was not the same. "The witch has abandoned Christianity, has renounced her baptism, has worshipped Satan as her God, has surrendered herself to him, body and soul, and exists only to be his instrument in working the evil to her fellow creatures which he cannot accomplish without a human agent." This mad delusion, whose rise Mr. Lea dates from the middle of the fourteenth century, and which fills with horror the annals of Christendom during the three or four centuries following, was, in Mr. Lea's opinion, as in that of most other students of the subject, "essentially a disease of the imagination, created and stimulated by the persecution of witchcraft". Now, no land seemed more exposed to the contagion of this epidemic than Spain; nor have the historians of witchcraft recorded her exemption from its ravages. But Mr. Lea demonstrates that in Spain they were far less than in most other Christian lands; and that the mania was "repressed and